

Budget Subcommittee
Arlington School Committee

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 30th, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

Meeting held remotely via Zoom.

Attendance

Subcommittee Members: Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Len Kardon, Jane Morgan
Administration: Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Michael Mason, CFO, Roderick McNeal, Assistant Superintendent
Additional School Committee: Bill Hayner, Liz Exton
Additional: Dean Carman, Finance Committee

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Public Comment – none

FY22 Budget Discussion

Subcommittee members discussed approach for upcoming Long Range Plan meeting and enrollment changes. Acknowledgement was made of the formula now in use and the need for balancing school and town needs both now and in the future. Concern was expressed re the need to deliver on the promises made to the voters re the override and the fact that APS did not receive the entire \$600,000 promised last year.

Subcommittee and administration did not feel that we would be able to have documented needs (listed with funding needs) by the next LRP meeting; these needs would have to be discussed by full School Committee as well before it would be appropriate to present to LRP.

A proposal created by Dean Carman had been forwarded shortly before the meeting. It suggests that the enrollment growth factor funds should be put in a special reserve held by Finance Committee, to be allocated if enrollment exceeds a certain amount. Some committee members felt comfortable with this approach, another felt that there will likely be increased remedial needs etc next year because of pandemic education and that these needs should be considered too.

Additional topics that were discussed:

- concerns that remedial list contained positions already mentioned in strategic plan, and that this suggests they are not related to recovery
- desire for clarity around town portion number as prepare next year's budget
- concern re increased OOD placements next year
- there will be significant non-staffing needs next year (online tools, etc)
- uncertainty re what school will look like next fall given COVID

The group determined the following items would be helpful in continuing the discussion at the next Budget Subcommittee meeting on 1/6/21:

- Enrollment numbers
- Presentation of items that are new not already in strategic plan
- Strategic plan status - what we've funded, what still to add?

Because of time constraints, the rest of the agenda was tabled until the next meeting and the meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.